IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for chaining a first translation engine and a second translation engine, comprising:

receiving a request to translate a source text from a source natural language to a target natural language;

receiving, in the first translation engine, a the source text in ~~a first~~ the source natural language;

using the first translation engine to translate the source text into an intermediate text in ~~a second~~ an intermediate natural language and to annotate the intermediate text;

receiving, in the second translation engine, the annotated intermediate text; ~~and~~

using the second translation engine to translate the annotated intermediate text into a ~~third~~ target natural language to form a target text; and

returning the target text as a response to the request.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediate text is annotated using a linguistic annotation language.

3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the linguistic annotation language is a markup language.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first translation engine and the second translation engine are chained using a chaining module.

5. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the first translation engine and the second translation engine are specified as options.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the options are defined in a properties file.

7. (Currently Amended): A method, in a server computer, for chaining applications, comprising:

receiving, at a chaining module, a request from a requesting application for a service and an option associated with a the chaining module, wherein the option identifies the service by a service name and wherein the option specifies use of a linguistic annotation language;

receiving a properties file, wherein the properties file associates the service name with a series of applications;

receiving [[a]] the series of applications ~~from the option~~ corresponding to the chaining module, wherein the series of applications comprises a first translation engine and a second translation engine, wherein the first translation engine translates from a source natural language to an intermediate natural language, and wherein the second translation engine translates from the intermediate natural language to a target natural language;

executing the first translation engine and the second translation engine in order and passing the output of the first translation engine to the input of the second translation engine, wherein the output of the first translation engine is annotated with the linguistic annotation language and wherein the linguistic annotation language is a markup language; and

returning a result of the service to the requesting application.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for chaining a first translation engine and a second translation engine, comprising:

a means for receiving a request to translate a source text from a source natural language to a target natural language;

first receipt means for receiving, in the first translation engine, a the source text in ~~a first~~ the source natural language;

first translation means for using the first translation engine to translate the source text into an intermediate text in a ~~second~~ an intermediate natural language and to annotate the intermediate text;

second receipt means for receiving, in the second translation engine, the annotated intermediate text; ~~and~~

second translation means for using the second translation engine to translate the annotated intermediate text into a ~~third~~ target natural language to form a target text; and

means for returning the target text as a response to the request.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the intermediate text is annotated using a linguistic annotation language.

12. (Original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the linguistic annotation language is a markup language.

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first translation engine and the second translation engine are chained using a chaining module.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first translation engine and the second translation engine are specified as options.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the options are defined in a properties file.

16. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for chaining language translation engines, comprising:

a first translation engine, wherein the first translation engine receives a source text in a ~~first~~ source natural language, translates the source text into an intermediate text in a ~~second~~ an intermediate natural language, and inserts annotations into the intermediate text; and a second translation engine, wherein the second translation engine receives the

intermediate text and translates the intermediate text into a target text in a ~~third~~ target natural language using the annotations.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the annotations are in a linguistic annotation language.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the linguistic annotation language is a markup language.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a chaining module, wherein the chaining module chains the first translation engine and the second translation engine.

20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first translation engine and the second translation engine are specified as options.

21. (Original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the options are defined in a properties file.

22. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for chaining language translation engines, comprising:

instructions for receiving a request to translate a source text from a source natural language to a target natural language;

instructions for receiving, in the first translation engine, ~~a~~ the source text in ~~a first~~ the source natural language;

instructions for using the first translation engine to translate the source text into an intermediate text in ~~a second~~ an intermediate natural language and to annotate the intermediate text;

instructions for receiving, in a second translation engine, the annotated intermediate text; ~~and~~

instructions for using the second translation engine to translate the annotated intermediate text into a ~~third~~ the target natural language to form a target text; and

instructions for returning the target text as a response to the request.

23. (Original): The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the intermediate text is annotated using a linguistic annotation language.

24. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for chaining applications, comprising:

instructions for receiving, at a chaining module, a request from a requesting application for a service and an option associated with a the chaining module, wherein the option identifies the service by a service name and wherein the option specifies use of a linguistic annotation language;

instructions for receiving a properties file, wherein the properties file associates the service name with a series of applications;

instructions for receiving [[a]] the series of applications ~~from an option~~ corresponding to the chaining module, wherein the series of applications comprises a first translation engine and a second translation engine wherein the first translation engine translates from a source natural language to an intermediate natural language, and wherein the second translation engine translates from the intermediate natural language to a target natural language; ~~and~~

instructions for executing the first translation engine and the second translation engine in order and passing the output of the first translation engine to the input of the second translation engine, wherein the output of the first translation engine is annotated with the linguistic annotation language and wherein the linguistic annotation language is a markup language; and

instructions for returning a result of the service to the requesting application.

25. (Cancelled)